

National Rural Touring Forum

Conference Guiding Principles

March 2023



Rural touring plays an important part in cultural diversity and inclusion. To ensure that rural touring remains a vibrant and valuable sector, it is important to have a cultural conference dedicated to it.

The conference is an opportunity for touring artists, culture experts, and community leaders to come together and discuss how best to support rural touring in their respective areas. It is a chance to share experiences and learn from one another about how best to strengthen the sector and promote cultural diversity through rural touring. The conference is an invaluable platform for promoting inclusion and providing access to art for all members of society.

NRTF delivers the flagship annual conference that brings together the rural touring and wider cultural sector. Delegates exchange and share their experiences, projects and working practices on all aspects of rural touring. The conference provides an interdisciplinary platform for the cultural sector with an interest in Rural and community touring. This includes the NRTF membership, policymakers, researchers, practitioners and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered, and solutions adopted.

The conference aims to be an open space that offers opportunities to attend and connect. NRTF does this by creating bursaries for attendance for artists, promoters and schemes aimed at broadening the diversity of attendance. As well as payment for artists to take part in and share shows, projects and concepts.

Every year the guiding principles for the conference delivery revolve around quality programming, policies, good practice, peer-to-peer learning, networking, training, funding, diversity, sustainability, access and advocacy.

Conference Guiding Principles

- 1) To strengthen and advocate for sector development
- 2) to be an inclusive, open and welcoming space, especially to new and diverse individuals
- 3) To connect the rural touring sector for an opportunity to share and learn
- 4) To enable at least 80% of conference attendees to improve their knowledge or working practice
- 5) To enable new stakeholders to benefit from NRTF support and contribute to the rural touring conversation

Programming Guiding Principles

- 1) To program quality, relevant, creative presentations that encourage more diverse work in the sector
- 2) To ensure 60% of the conference programme is representative of diverse voices and/or topics, particularly themes and individuals with protected characteristics
- 3) To showcase examples of good practice

Theme and Consideration Guiding Principles

- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
- Environmental Sustainability
- Quality of product and presentation
- Accessibility
- Wellbeing & Health

Conference to appeal to a diverse and broad range of people

- Schemes
- Promoters
- Artists
- Industry professional
- Funders
- Rural services
- freelancers in the creative sector
- networks and collectives

Conference Space Guiding Principles

- To ensure the conference spaces and location is accessible
- To consider the travel to the spaces and have accessible public transport